



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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India

Agricultural Situation

Monsoon Progress Report - Seven 2002

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Report Highlights:

After a poor performance during the first half of the monsoon season, monsoon activity picked up momentum since the beginning of August. Recent rains, although late, should help sustain the development of the already planted crops.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
New Delhi [IN1], IN

After a poor performance during the first half of the monsoon season (June - Sep), when 26 of the 36 weather subdivisions accounting for roughly three-fourth of the total geographical area received below normal rainfall, monsoon activity picked up momentum since the beginning of August. Weather subdivisions receiving normal or above normal rainfall increased to 16 during the week ending August 7 from the previous week's 5 and further to 27 during the week ending August 14 (Fig 1) but declined to 11 during the week ending August 21 (Fig 2). Several drought stricken areas like West Madhya Pradesh (soybeans), East Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, East Uttar Pradesh, West Uttar Pradesh, South Interior Karnataka, and Kerala (rice, corn) received excellent rains during the past two to three weeks. However, rainfall was significantly below normal in Rajasthan (millet, soybeans) and in Gujarat (peanut, cotton, millet).

Cumulative rainfall from June 1 to August 21 was normal or above normal in 16 of the 36 weather subdivisions (Fig 3), a significant improvement over the end-July performance when only 10 weather subdivisions received normal or above normal rainfall. The area weighted cumulative rainfall for the country as whole at 51 cm, was still 23 percent below normal.

Recent rains, although late, should help sustain the development of the already planted crops and should also encourage planting of short duration crops of pulses, coarse grains, oilseeds, fodder, and vegetables. These rains have also helped to replenish water levels in some of the major reservoirs. Continued rains in coming weeks should help planting of *rabi* (winter season) crops like wheat, rapeseed, and pulses this fall, which will help to partially offset the decline in production during the *kharif* (fall harvested) season.

Fig 1. Rainfall During the Week Ending August 14

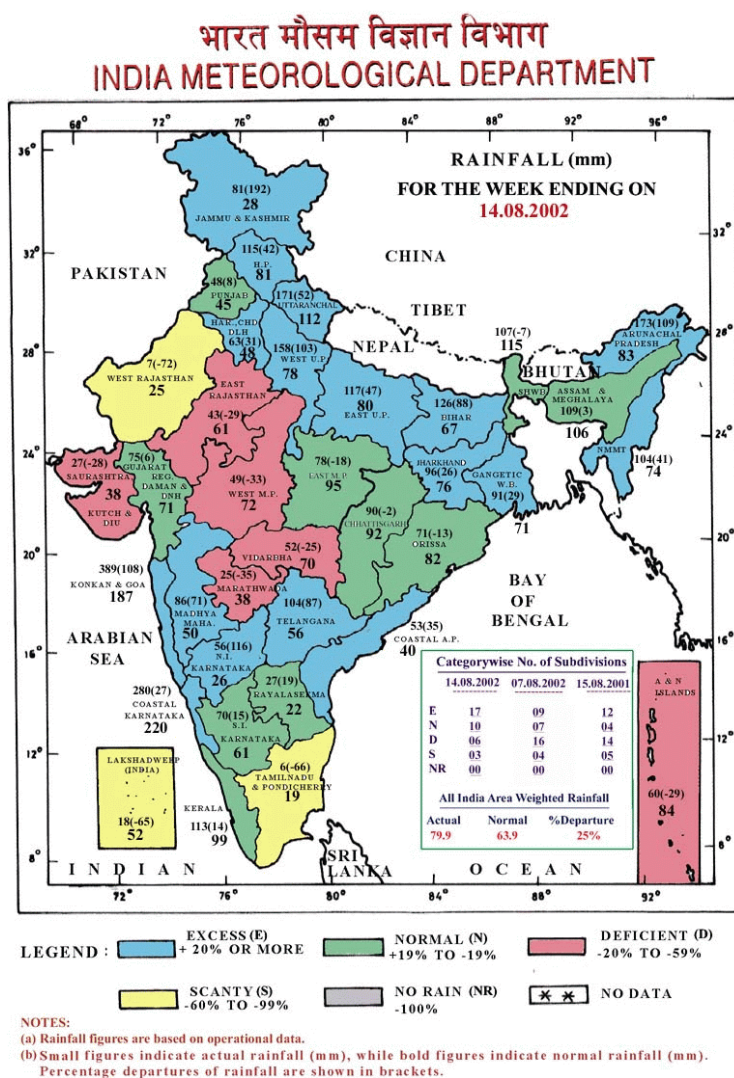


Fig 2. Rainfall During the Week Ending August 21

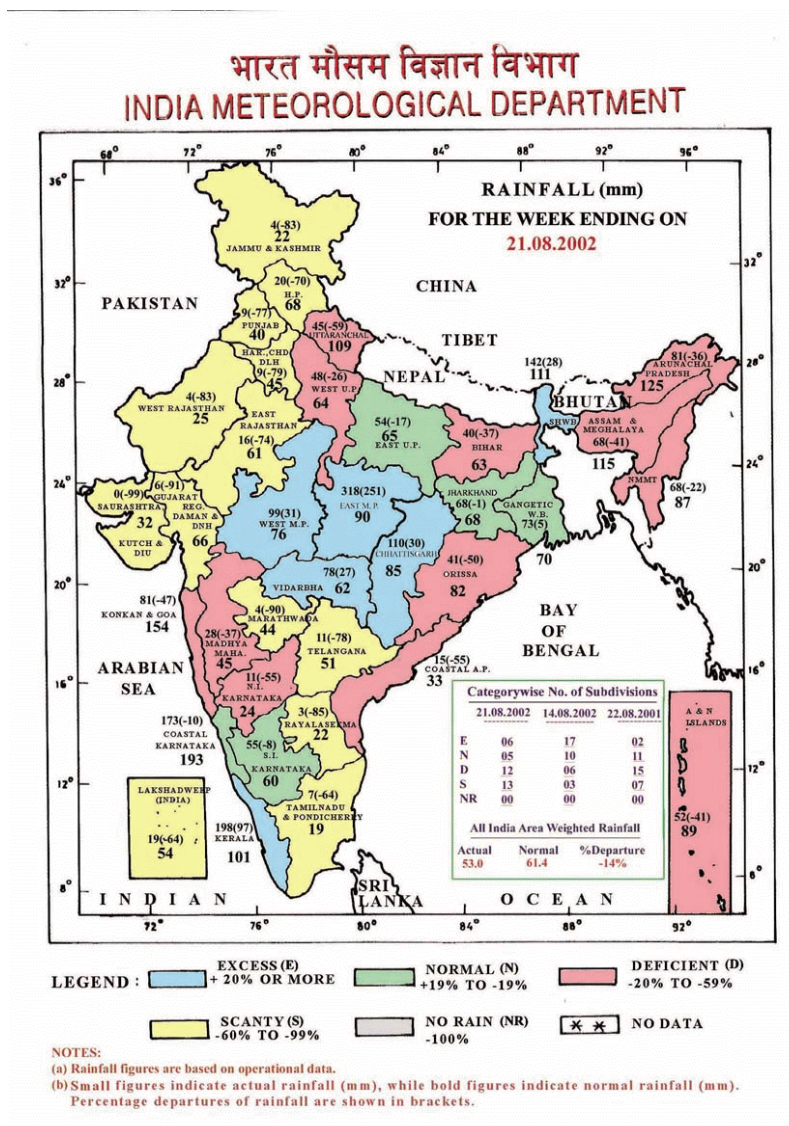


Fig 3. Cumulative Rainfall During June 1 to August 21

